

**LAND AT THE NURSERIES, GRANGE ROAD,
BLUNHAM, BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD EVALUATION**

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Produced for:
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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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Albion Archaeology would like to thank Mr Salvatore Genovese, his family and Leslie-Ann Mather of Bedfordshire County Council for their assistance.

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Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, a summary of the evaluation results is presented in Section 2, followed by a brief conclusion (Section 3).

Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

<i>ACAO</i>	Assistant County Archaeological Officer at Bedfordshire County Council
<i>Client</i>	Mr Salvatore Genovese
<i>HER</i>	Historic Environment Record
<i>IFA</i>	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2 nd edn, 2001 Albion Archaeology
<i>Study Area</i>	<i>Area of archaeological investigation</i>



Non-Technical Summary

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Salvatore Genovese to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site at 'The Nurseries', situated at the northern edge of the village of Blunham, Bedfordshire. To support a planning application to Mid Bedfordshire District Council (03/2234) to erect glass houses, with adjacent landscaping comprising a pond, reservoir and tree-planting, the Assistant County Archaeological Officer indicated that because the site is within a sensitive archaeological landscape, further information regarding the nature and significance of the archaeological remains was required. This information was to be gained through a program of archaeological investigation.

The site is situated approximately 9km to the east of Bedford, centred on National Grid Reference TL (5/2) 1461 5240. Located at the confluence of the River Great Ouse and River Ivel, the area is generally flat at approximately 21m above Ordnance Datum. Situated to the west of an existing building known as 'The Villa' and associated glass houses, the site is roughly rectangular in plan, measuring up to 330m north-west to south-east by approximately 110m wide; an area of approximately three hectares. The geology of the site consists of river silts and gravels overlying Oxford Clay.

As part of the evaluation, a review of documentary evidence and historic maps held by the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record and Bedfordshire and Luton Record Office was undertaken. A complex series of cropmarks have been identified in the areas to the north and east. The majority of these features seem to form a coherent pattern of enclosures associated with a routeway orientated roughly north-north-east to south-south-west. The nearest cropmarks are the eastern part of a probable rectilinear enclosure with internal sub-divisions. The western continuation of the cropmarks is obscured by 'The Villa' and associated buildings. The only cropmarks detected within the area of the site were a series of wide bands of darker crop growth. The width of these features indicated a probable geological origin. No previously identified archaeological or historic sites are recorded within the limits of the site. The available information, particularly the cropmark information, was utilised to formulate the trenching strategy.

The trial excavation stage of the evaluation was undertaken between 25th and 28th October 2004, plus an additional day of work on 5th November. A total of eight trial excavation trenches were opened, revealing considerable spatial variation in the archaeological remains. The eastern part of the site, extending from the centrally located glass house to the eastern site boundary, contained few archaeological deposits, which were dispersed and undated. In contrast a greater number of features were identified in the west, with the most significant remains being identified in the north-western margin of the site. Evidence for two phases of activity comprising pits and ditches was defined. Although undated by artefacts, at least one element of the later phase, interpreted as a cultivation furrow, would appear to be of medieval or later date, if correctly identified. The features were relatively shallow indicating truncation of the upper elements, probably by agriculture. The orientation of the early ditches in this area contrasts with that of the known cropmarks implying that they are not associated. The apparently confined nature of the activity implies clustering, whereas the known cropmarks indicate an extensive area of activity focussed on a main routeway with possible perpendicular off-shoots.



The evaluation identified a single cluster of archaeological features in the north-western area of the site. Although undated and truncated, the earlier phase of activity in particular would appear to be significant, having the potential to add to the understanding of the settlement pattern in an important archaeological landscape, which to date has mainly been identified by cropmarks visible on aerial photographs.

The site archive, which contains all records of the project (Project number NB 1011) is currently stored at the offices of Albion Archaeology and will transferred to Bedford Museum (Accession Number 2004.287) on completion of the project.

It is essential that the above summary is read in conjunction with the main body of the report



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Salvatore Genovese to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of proposed expansion to the existing horticultural nursery. Proposed works include the creation of a lake and reservoir together with tree-planting. Mr Genovese has made a planning application to Mid Bedfordshire District Council (03/2234). The Assistant County Archaeological Officer (ACAO) indicated that the site was in an archaeologically sensitive area and that there was insufficient information available to determine the impact of the development, or to allow an appropriate mitigation strategy to be devised. Two briefs were produced by the ACAO^{1,2} and the requirements of these were taken into account by Albion Archaeology in the production of a *Project Design*³, which set out a strategy for the evaluation of the site.

The purpose of the evaluation was to characterise any archaeological remains and establish their extent and condition, so that their importance could be assessed.

1.2 Site Location and Description

Situated approximately 9km east of Bedford, the site is located at the northern edge of the village of Blunham, centred on National Grid Reference TL (5/2) 1461 524 (Figure 1). In plan the site is roughly rectangular up to 330m long by 110m, covering an area of approximately 3 hectares. The site is bounded to the south and west by ploughed fields, to the north by a hedgerow and track, and to the east by a house 'The Villa' and adjacent horticultural nursery buildings. Access to the site is by means of a wide track which enters at the north-east corner.

The site is situated on the basal part of a wide river valley, formed at the confluence of the River Great Ouse (to the west and north) and the River Ivel (to the east). Topographically the land is fairly flat at about 21m above Ordnance Datum, on a very slight and barely discernible rise. The geology is First and Second River Terrace deposits of silt and gravel overlying Oxford Clay.

At the time of the evaluation, the eastern third of the site was under grass and light scrub. Most of the central third was occupied by a recently constructed glass house and associated wide access road. The western third was under cultivation, containing a crop of sweetcorn. A c.10m corridor of land links the eastern and western parts of the site along the northern side of the glass house (Figure 1).

¹ Bedfordshire County Council, 2004, *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation of Land at the Nurseries, Grange Road, Blunham, Bedfordshire*. V1 5th April 2004

² Bedfordshire County Council, 2004, *Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation of Land at the Nurseries, Grange Road, Blunham, Bedfordshire (revised form)*

³ Albion Archaeology, 2004, *Land at the Nurseries, Grange Road, Blunham, Bedfordshire: Project Design for an Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Report 04-100



1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

The general area has evidence of activity ranging in date from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period. Bedfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER) records several archaeological sites in the vicinity, most identified from cropmarks on aerial photographs or from casually recovered artefacts (Figure 2). Some traces of Mesolithic activity have been found in the vicinity (e.g. a flint scatter from a possible sand mound 0.5 km to the north-east – **HER 491**). Neolithic and Bronze Age artefact findspots including a spearhead were found on the banks of the River Great Ouse at Great Barford 0.8km to the west (**HER 14781**).

Several Iron Age and Romano-British farmstead settlements may be located close to the banks of the River Great Ouse (e.g. **HER 613, 9937**). The most significant recorded site in the vicinity consists of an extensive area of complex cropmarks, (**HER 615**) visible 250m north-east of the site. Figure 2 depicts the HER interpretation of these features, which include linear ditches, rectangular enclosures containing smaller enclosures and at least two possible examples of a type of dwelling known as roundhouses. All seem to be associated with a routeway aligned roughly north-north-east to south-south-west. There is a suggestion of another track running perpendicular to this, further to the west. These cropmarks have been identified in the HER as probably dating to the Iron Age to Romano-British period. In the centre of the cropmark complex (0.6km from the site) is a large double ring-ditch which still survives as a low and denuded earthwork; local tradition has it that this is a burial mound.

Much closer to the site are cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure containing smaller sub-rectangular enclosures (**HER 13756**), immediately east of and partly obscured by 'The Villa' and associated horticultural nurseries, adjacent to the current site (Figure 2). These cropmarks are best seen on an oblique aerial photograph (Northants CC 2506/37, July 1984) held in the HER. These cropmarks are not seen to the west of 'The Villa', within the current site. Given their similarity in form and orientation to the cropmarks already described further to the north (**HER 615**) it seems likely that they are situated on the eastern side of the same track, which would appear to suggest that it continues underneath the already established glass houses to the east of the site.

The village of Blunham (**HER 17152**) has its origins in Saxon times.

Oblique aerial photograph (Northants CC 2506/37, July 1984) defines a series of at least three broad linear bands of darker vegetation, crossing the site from north to south. These features are relatively wide, suggesting that they are unlikely to be the result of human activity; possibly defining infilled former watercourses (palaeochannels) or other geological variations. Several trial trenches in the eastern area were located to intersect these features, as well as seeking to establish whether the cropmarks of **HER 13756** to the east and to the north, extended on to the site.



2. RESULTS OF THE TRIAL EXCAVATION

2.1 Introduction

The results of the HER search were used to formulate a trenching strategy which was submitted to the ACAO on 12th October and approved following further discussion and modification on 14th October. The locations of seven linear trenches outside and one test-pit inside the glass house were agreed. The evaluation was undertaken in two stages: an initial period of four days from 25th-28th October 2004; and a single day on 5th November for contingency work including extending trench limits and opening up an additional trench. Trenches 1-4 were placed in the eastern part of the site (Figure 3, 4). Trench 5 extended along the northern side of the glass house (Figure 4). Trenches 6 and 7 were located in the western part of the site (Figure 5). Once Trenches 1-7 were opened, it was agreed with the ACAO that a test-pit inside the glass house was no longer necessary and that attention should focus instead upon characterising the archaeology encountered in the western part of the site. Trench 7 was consequently extended in several places and an extra trench (Trench 8) was opened at the north-western margin of the area (Figure 5).

2.2 Methodology

- The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m toothless bucket. The operation of this machine was supervised by an experienced archaeologist.
- The trenches were set out by hand.
- Overburden was removed by machine down to the top of the uppermost archaeological deposit or the undisturbed geological stratum, whichever was encountered first.
- Each trench was issued a unique block of numbers for recording purposes, commencing at 100 for Trench 1.
- All spoil was scanned by eye for artefacts.
- Backfilling of the original trenches only occurred after the ACAO had inspected them. The ACAO did not require an inspection of the contingency work.

All archaeological and geological deposits (contexts) were assigned an individual number in a single sequence, commencing at (100). Numbers in brackets within the text refer to the context number issued on site. Within this report context numbers referring to cut features are expressed [**], layers or deposits within cut features are expressed (**).

Each trench was issued with a unique block of numbers. For example (200) identifies ploughsoil in Trench 2 and [503] identifies the excavation cut for a ditch in Trench 5. Details of all contexts are listed in Appendix 1.

2.3 Results of the Trial Excavation

As there was a contrast between the eastern and western parts of the site, these two areas will be discussed separately in the following summary.



2.3.1 Eastern Area

Trenches 1 to 5 were situated to the north and east of a new glass house on flat ground, which was bisected by a partly completed access track (Figures 3 and 4). Three broad, linear cropmarks were observed crossing this area on an approximately north-south alignment.

2.3.1.1 Ploughsoil

Generally, the uppermost layer in each trench consisted of a firm, dark brownish grey, sandy silt ploughsoil. This deposit was approximately 0.3m thick, but could vary between 0.26m and 0.39m. Only a few modern artefacts were recovered from this material (100).

In contrast the redeposited ploughsoil in Trench 4 (400) was very compact, with a blocky structure and evidence for diesel contamination; indicative of recent compaction. There was evidence of disturbance of the soil by a toothed machine bucket, with the scars visible at the interface with the underlying subsoil. This disturbance is probably associated with construction activity in the vicinity.

2.3.1.2 Subsoil

Immediately below the ploughsoil was a firm, silty sand subsoil, between 0.13m and 0.25m thick and varying in colour from reddish to orangey brown. This deposit contained frequent small to medium sized stones. Deep ploughing had affected the upper part of the subsoil in the trenches to the east of the glass house. Further disturbance associated with subsoiling was identified in Trench 5. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

In Trench 4 the upper part of the deposit had been disturbed by a series of closely spaced, shallow, parallel scars which are interpreted as the impressions of the teeth on the bucket of a mechanical excavator rather than plough scars.

2.3.1.3 Geological Stratum

The undisturbed geological stratum was revealed at a depth ranging from 0.39m to 0.52m below the present ground level. The upper surface of the geological stratum was a firm, reddish brown sandy gravel. In the north-western part of this area, within Trench 5, a noticeable clay component to the matrix was apparent. Only Trench 5 revealed any evidence of modern disturbance to the geological stratum, caused by subsoiling. There were no obvious variations in the deposit to account for the pattern of broad linear cropmarks, visible on aerial photographs.

2.3.1.4 Archaeological Features

A total of five archaeological features were identified in the Eastern Area (Figures 3 and 4), though no dateable artefacts were recovered from them.



Trench	Ditch	Pit	Tree-throw	Posthole	Palaeochannel	Total
1	-	1	1	-	-	2
2	-	-	-	1	-	1
3	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	-	-	1	2
Total	1	1	1	1	1	5

Table 1: Summary of archaeological features in the Eastern Area

2.3.1.4.1 Pit [103]

A 1.0m long feature was observed on the eastern side of Trench 1. Its full extent was not visible in plan, but it had a concave profile and was cut through the subsoil. Two naturally derived fills were present, consisting of orangey brown, clayey silt; the upper fill (104) was slightly lighter in colour than the lower one (105).

2.3.1.4.2 Posthole [203]

A clearly defined, sub-circular feature 0.31m wide and 0.29m deep was identified near the eastern end of the trench (Figure 3, Figure 6: photograph 1). In section the feature had near vertical sides with a flat base, filled by (204) a firm, mid greyish brown sandy silt. No evidence for a post pipe was visible.

The trench was extended on the northern side adjacent to the posthole to search for any related features, but none were discovered.

2.3.1.4.3 Boundary Ditch [503]

A north-north-west to south-south-east orientated linear feature was identified near the centre of the trench (Figure 4), measuring 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep, with a concave profile (Figure 4: section 1, Figure 6: photograph 2). The ditch contained a firm, mid greyish brown fill (504), consisting of sandy silt with a moderate number of medium sized stones. Sample <1> was taken from this fill in an attempt to recover dating evidence, with a single flint flake being recovered. This feature truncated the infilled possible palaeochannel (see Section 2.3.1.4.5 below).

2.3.1.4.4 Tree-throw [106]

An irregularly shaped feature was identified at the southern end of Trench 1 (Figure 3). In plan the feature measured approximately 2.8m by at least 2.3m, continuing beyond the eastern edge of the trench. The unexcavated feature represented the large infilled cavity created when the root bole of a tree is removed.

2.3.1.4.5 Palaeochannel [505]

A possible north-south aligned feature was identified in Trench 5, measuring 4.5m wide and 0.3m deep. The sole fill consisted of a loose silty gravel, from which a flint flake was recovered. In section the profile of the feature was poorly defined. It is possible that the feature is the silted-up former course of a stream.



2.3.2 Western Area

Trenches 6 to 8 were situated to the west of the new glass house on flat ground (Figure 5). This area contained a significantly higher concentration of archaeological features than the Eastern Area (see Table 2).

2.3.2.1 Ploughsoil

The uppermost layer in each trench consisted of a firm, dark brownish grey, sandy silt ploughsoil. This deposit was generally about 0.3m thick, but varied between 0.22m and 0.39m, and had been subjected to deep ploughing. Only a few modern artefacts were recovered from this material.

2.3.2.2 Subsoil

Immediately below the ploughsoil was a firm subsoil which was either mid reddish brown silty sand or mid orangey brown sandy clay, with moderate small to medium sized stones. This subsoil deposit generally ranged from 0.11m to 0.20m in thickness, but increased to 0.37m thick in Trench 8. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

This deposit would appear to be significant as it appears to separate two phases of archaeological activity (see Section 2.3.2.4 below).

2.3.2.3 Geological Stratum

The undisturbed geological stratum was revealed at a depth ranging from 0.33m to 0.51m below the present ground level. The upper surface of the geological stratum varied between a firm, reddish brown sandy gravel and a light yellowish brown sandy clay.

2.3.2.4 Archaeological Features

A total of ten features were identified in the western part of the site (Figure 5 and Table 2) mainly in the north-west corner of this area (see Table 2 below). For this area, the features will be discussed by trench rather than feature type.

Trench	Ditch	Pits	Tree-throws	Furrow	Total
6	-	-	3	-	3
7	1	3	1	1	6
8	1	-	-	-	1
Total	2	3	4	1	10

Table 2: Summary of archaeological features in the Western Area

2.3.2.4.1 Trench 6

The trench contained three isolated features that cut the subsoil (Figure 5). All of these were interpreted as tree-throws, due to their shape in plan and the characteristic form of the fills. These features were approximately 1m long; ranging in width from 0.7m [605] to at least 0.85m [603] and [607] - continuing beyond the limit of the trench. Their fills ranged from mid yellowish brown to dark brown sandy clay, containing frequent amounts of small to medium sized stones.

2.3.2.4.2 Trench 7

The trench contained two apparent phases of activity. The earlier phase comprised a pit [708] and a ditch [715] that were sealed by the subsoil. A



furrow [711], two pits [718] and [720] and a tree-throw [722] all appeared to have been cut through the subsoil.

2.3.2.4.2.1 *Features sealed by the subsoil*

Pit [708]

This sub-oval feature was heavily truncated (Figure 5: section 2). In plan the feature measured 1.4m long and 0.7m wide but only 0.12m deep, with only the basal portion of the profile surviving (Figure 7: photograph 3). The pit had two fills, the lower one (710) derived from the surrounding geological stratum and the upper one (709) a mid greyish brown clayey silt with manganese staining. This deposit was derived from the upper soil profile.

Ditch [715]

This linear feature was at least 34m long, orientated north-east to south-west. Two excavated segments [702] and [705] (Figure 5: section 3) define a concave profile roughly 0.65m wide and 0.23m deep. Its fills were similar to those of pit [708], though the upper fill was not quite as dark. It is probable that this is the same feature as ditch [803] in Trench 8 to the north-east (Figure 5).

2.3.2.4.2.2 *Features cutting the subsoil*

Furrow [711]

This linear feature was aligned roughly north-south, located roughly centrally within trench. It was 2.15m wide with a broad, shallow profile a maximum of only 0.18m deep. Fill (712) was similar to the subsoil, and contained a very small sherd of late medieval pottery, weighing 1 gram. The base of the feature had been disturbed by animal or root activity. The relationship with pit [718] and tree-throw [720] are uncertain.

Based on the distinctive wide but shallow profile, this would appear to be a cultivation furrow, typical of medieval arable agriculture.

Pits [718] and [720]

Pit [718] was 1.2m long, 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep, with concave sides and an uneven base. Pit [720] was smaller and shallower, with steep sides and a flat base. Both pits contained plastic, dark grey silty clay fills. A flint flake was recovered from the fill of pit [720]. The relationship between pit [720] and furrow [711] is uncertain.

Tree-throw [722]

The sub-rectangular feature measuring 0.7m long by 0.5m was located immediately to the west of pit [720] (Figure 5). This was of similar size to [720] though very shallow at 0.08m deep. The fill was very similar, and it is possible that this was also a pit, albeit very truncated. The relationship with furrow [711] is uncertain.

2.3.2.4.3 *Trench 8*

The contingency trench, situated to the north-east of Trench 7 contained a ditch orientated roughly north-east to south-west [803] (Figure 5). The alignment and stratigraphic relationship with the overlying subsoil (Figure



7: photograph 4) suggests that it is a continuation of ditch [715], though slightly wider here. The ditch was roughly 1m wide and 0.27m deep, with a concave profile (Figure 5: section 4). Primary fill (804) was a dark grey silt 0.11m thick and had a horizontal upper profile, suggesting that it was deposited in standing water. It is likely that this fill, the lighter grey secondary fill (805) and the mottled orangey brown upper fill (806) were all formed by natural silting.

2.3.3 Artefacts

2.3.3.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a small artefact assemblage comprising pottery and non-ceramic objects (Table 3). The material was scanned to ascertain the nature, condition and, where possible, date range of the artefact types present. No artefacts were recovered from Trenches 2, 3 or 4.

Tr.	Feature	Type	Context	Spotdate*	Pottery	Other finds
1	100	Ploughsoil	100	Modern	1:17	Horseshoe branch (186g)
5	503	Ditch	504	Early prehistoric	-	Flint flake (soil sample <1>)
	505	Palaeochannel	506	Early prehistoric	-	Flint flake (1g)
6	605	Tree-throw	606	Modern	-	Window glass fragment (4g)
7	700	Ploughsoil	700	Modern	1:1	Ceramic paving edge (214g)
	711	Furrow	712	Late medieval	1:1	-
	720	Pit	721	Early prehistoric	-	Flint flake (4g)
Total					3:19	-

* - Spotdate based on date of latest artefact in context

(sherd/frag count: weight in grammes)

Table 3: Artefact assemblage by trench and context

2.3.3.2 Pottery

Three pottery sherds, weighing 19g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Three fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology.

Modern pottery comprises single unstratified sherds of brown stoneware (MOD) and creamware (type P38) recovered from ploughsoil (100) and (700) respectively. A small sherd of Cistercian ware (type P12) datable to the late 15th-16th centuries derived from furrow [711].

2.3.3.3 Other artefacts

These comprise an unstratified iron horseshoe branch, a fragment of ceramic paving edge and a fragment of frosted window glass; the latter recovered from tree-throw [605]. All are likely to be modern.

Ditch [503] and palaeochannel [505] yielded a flint flake and a broken flint flake respectively. A retouched flake derived from pit [720].



3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Overview

Despite the wealth of cropmarks visible to the north and east of the site, only variable evidence for archaeological remains was uncovered by the evaluation.

The eastern part of the site nearest to the previously recorded cropmarks of **HER 13756** contained only five features, including a tree-throw and a possible palaeochannel. A pit, a posthole and a small boundary ditch were also present. Although two flint flakes were recovered from separate features in this area, in this instance these small artefacts cannot be considered to provide reliable dating. However, they do indicate prehistoric activity in the vicinity. These features are of very limited significance with no real potential to address identified research objectives⁴, indicating that at best they are of local importance.

The form and distribution of the previously recorded cropmarks suggest that associated activity was generally confined to a narrow corridor adjacent to the north-north-east to south-south-west routeway of **HER 615**. In the vicinity of the current site the enclosure of **HER 13756** would appear to have been situated to the east of the routeway, with no activity to the west. The broad linear cropmarks identified within the site would appear to have been variations in the geological stratum, though no obvious variations were discernable within the excavated trenches.

The western part of the site had a higher number of features, concentrated mainly in the north-west corner. Ten features were present in total, though four of these were tree-throws, whilst it is probable that the ditch segments excavated in Trenches 7 and 8 relate to the same feature. The evaluation revealed two apparent phases of activity in this area of the site. The ditch and a pit [708] were sealed by the subsoil. A second phase of activity, comprising features which truncated the subsoil, included a probable medieval cultivation furrow, two pits and a tree-throw. The subsoil contained no artefacts and is undated. Despite the significant degree of truncation across the site, there is no evidence that any part of the site has been more or less truncated than the rest, suggesting that there is a genuine concentration of archaeological remains in the north-western corner.

The orientation of the early ditch in the north-western part of the site contrasts with the orientation of the known cropmarks to the north-east. This would suggest that it defines a separate phase of activity, of uncertain date. Little is known of the past landscape of this area, with most information being gleaned from cropmarks visible on aerial photographs. Although the features have been affected by general truncation, probably the result of agricultural activity, which has removed the upper part of the features, the remains in the north-west corner of the site have the potential to shed light on an element of a little understood landscape. These features would not have appeared as cropmarks as they were

⁴ Glazebrook, J, 1997, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – Resource Assessment*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3



general shallow, while some were masked by later deposits, particularly the subsoil. These factors would have combined to hinder the formation of cropmarks.



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5. APPENDIX 1

TRENCH SUMMARY



FIGURES



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.80 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.4 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL1478452343 Ref. 2: TL1477352320

Reason: Evaluate area to east of glass house, nearest to previously observed cropmarks.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Ploughsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones Maximum thickness 0.40m. Contained part of a modern horseshoe.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-large stones Maximum thickness 0.25m. Contains occasional patches of silt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Compact mid orange brown sandy gravel frequent large stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Pit	Circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.29m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Upper fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Lower fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small-large stones Siltier and lighter in colour than (104).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Treethrow	Irregular profile: concave base: concave	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Upper fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 28.20 m. Width: 1.55 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.48 m. Max: 0.51 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL1473652338 Ref. 2: TL1476352329

Reason: Evaluate area to east of glass house nearest to previously observed cropmarks.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Ploughsoil	Compact dark brown grey sandy silt Maximum thickness 0.35m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Firm dark red brown silty sand frequent small-large stones Maximum thickness 0.25m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Firm dark brown red sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Posthole	Sub-circular profile: near vertical base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.31m, max depth 0.29m, max length 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 28.00 m. Width: 1.55 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.51 m. Max: 0.51 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL1475752374 Ref. 2: TL1478152360

Reason: Evaluate area to east of glass house nearest to previously observed cropmarks.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Ploughsoil	Compact dark brown grey sandy silt Maximum thickness 0.38m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Firm mid brown orange silty sand moderate small-medium stones Maximum thickness 0.13m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Firm dark brown red sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones Thin band of gravel overlaying mid yellowish red sand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 27.00 m. Width: 1.55 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.48 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL1473352419 Ref. 2: TL1475652404

Reason: Evaluate area to east of glass house nearest to previously observed cropmarks.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Compact dark grey sandy silt Maximum thickness 0.32m. Evidence of disturbance by recent constructual activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones Maximum thickness 0.14m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Natural	Compact dark brown red sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones Becomes slightly more clayey towards western end of trench.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 38.90 m. Width: 1.55 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.47 m. Max: 0.5 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL1467352441 Ref. 2: TL1471052430

Reason: Evaluate area north of glass house.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Ploughsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Maximum thickness 0.35m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones Maximum thickness 0.15m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy clay frequent small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE profile: 45 degrees base: flat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
504	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy clay moderate medium sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
505	Palaeochannel	Linear N-S profile: convex dimensions: max breadth 4.5m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.55m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
506	Fill	Loose light brown grey silty gravel Contained a flint flake.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 51.00 m. Width: 1.55 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.33 m. Max: 0.45 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL1454452440 Ref. 2: TL1457652400

Reason: Evaluate area west of glass house.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Ploughsoil	Compact dark brown grey sandy silt Maximum thickness 0.30m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty sand frequent medium stones Maximum thickness 0.14m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Natural	Friable dark brown red sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Treethrow	Sub-oval dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, max length 1.1m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
605	Treethrow	Sub-oval profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.1m, max length 0.99m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
606	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy clay frequent small-medium stones Contained a modern fragment of window glass.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
607	Treethrow	Sub-oval profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.34m, max length 1.22m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
608	Fill	Firm dark brown sandy clay frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.47 m. Max: 0.51 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL1450852448 Ref. 2: TL1454352467

Reason: Evaluate area west of glass house.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Ploughsoil	Friable dark grey sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Maximum thickness 0.38m. Contained a piece of modern ceramic paving edge.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
701	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay frequent small manganese staining, moderate small-medium stones Maximum thickness 0.20m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
702	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.64m, max depth 0.23m Same as [705] and general number [715].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
703	Upper fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional small-medium stones Same as (706) and (716).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
704	Lower fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional small-large stones Contains more sand and is lighter than (703).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
705	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.64m, max depth 0.2m Same as [702] and general number [715].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
706	Upper fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional small-medium stones Same as (703) and general number (716).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
707	Lower fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional small-large stones Contains more sand and is lighter than (706).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
708	Pit	Sub-oval profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.13m, max length 1.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
709	Upper fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small manganese staining, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
710	Lower fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
711	Furrow	Linear N-S profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.15m, max depth 0.18m Base of feature affected by animal or root disturbance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
712	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones, occasional large stones Similar to subsoil, only slightly darker. Contained a small sherd of late medieval pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
714	Natural	Compact light yellow brown sandy clay Contains occasion gravel patches.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
715	General Number	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.64m, max length 34.m General number for the unexcavated portion of ditch; equivalent to [702] & [705].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
716	General Number	Friable mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional small-medium stones General number for the unexcavated portion of upper ditch fill; equivalent to (703) & (706).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
718	Pit	Irregular profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.25m, max length 1.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
719	Fill	Plastic dark grey silty clay moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
720	Pit	Sub-circular profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.15m, max length 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
721	Fill	Plastic dark grey silty clay moderate small stones Contained a flint flake.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
722	Treethrow	Sub-rectangular profile: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.08m, max length 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
723	Fill	Plastic dark grey silty clay moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.50 m. Width: 1.55 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.68 m. Max: 0.72 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL1456152473 Ref. 2: TL1456252468

Reason: Contingency trench to evaluate extent of ditch in Trench 7.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Ploughsoil	Friable dark grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Maximum thickness 0.35m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
801	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silty sand occasional small-medium stones Maximum thickness 0.37m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
802	Natural	Compact mid brown yellow clay gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
803	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.04m, max depth 0.27m, max length 0.45m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
804	Primary fill	Firm dark grey sandy silt occasional small-large stones Natural silting, formed in water.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
805	Secondary fill	Firm light grey sandy silt occasional small stones Natural silting, probably formed in water.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
806	Upper fill	Firm dark orange brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

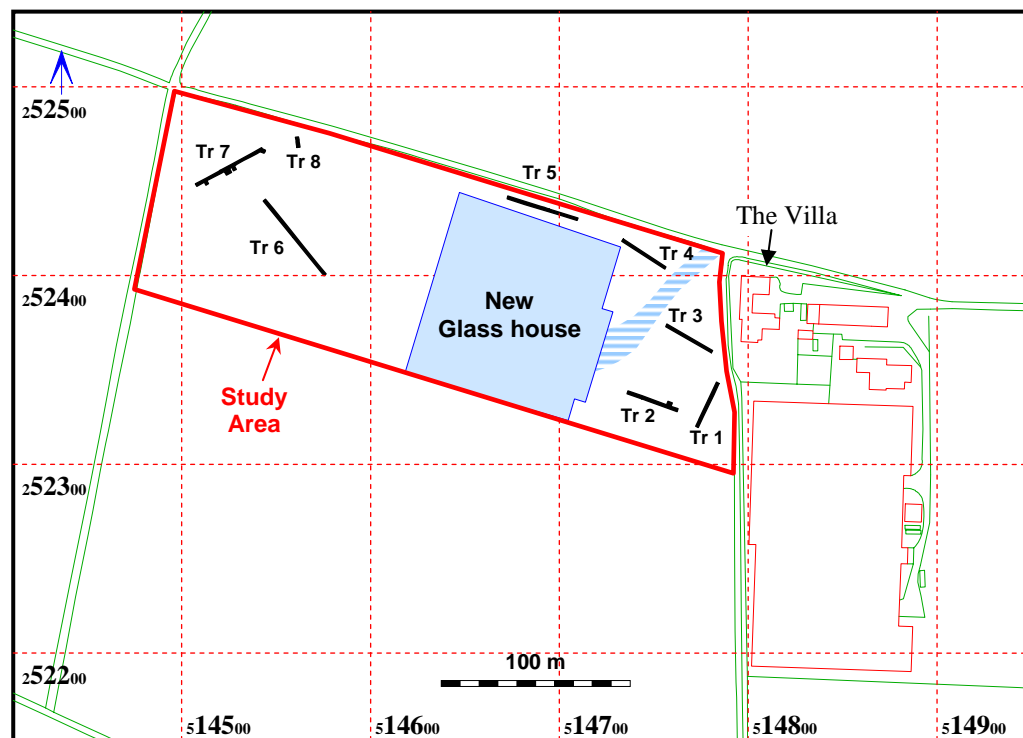
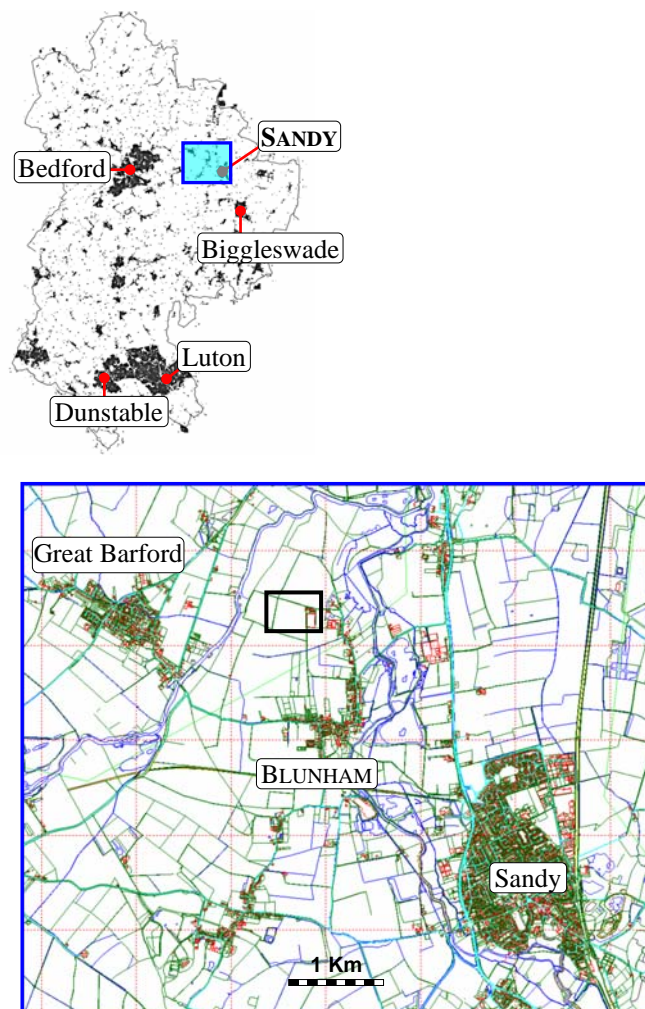


Figure 1: Site location map

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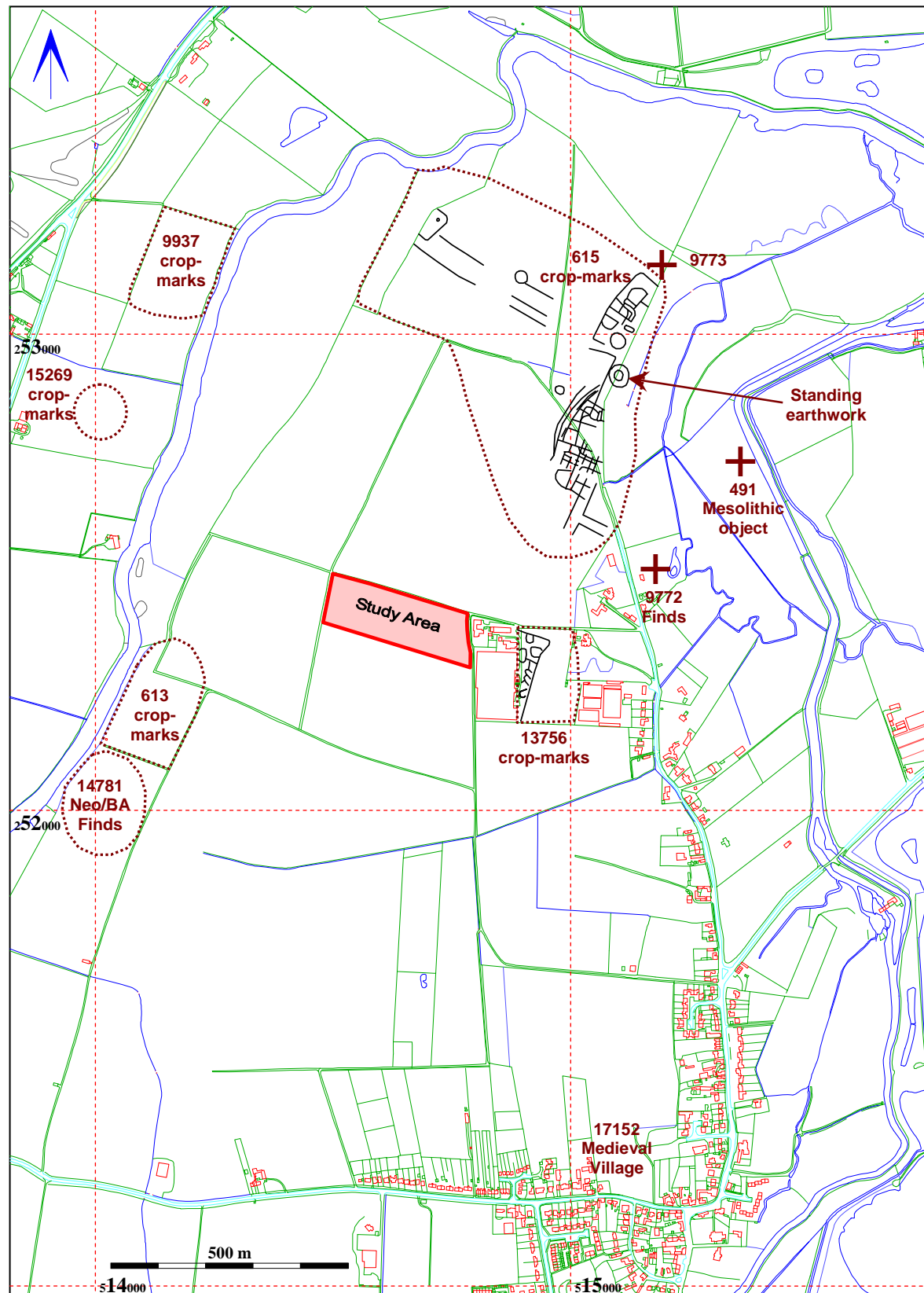
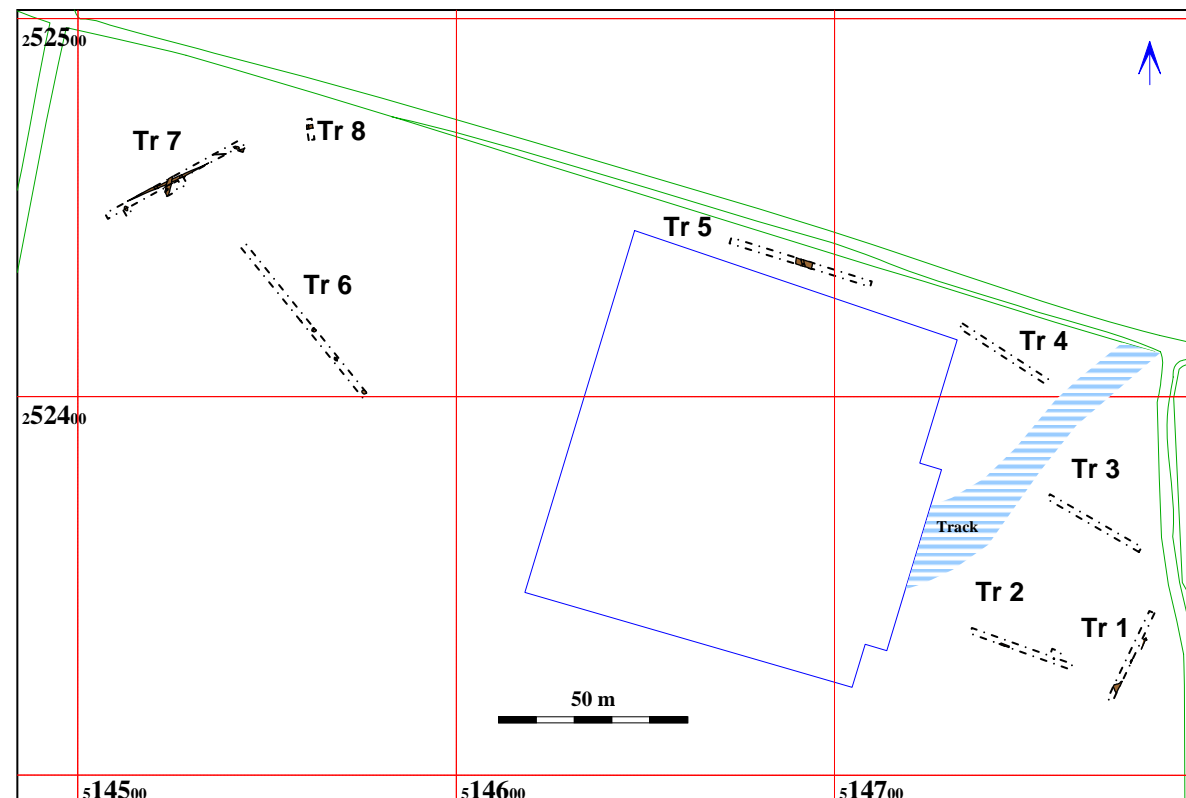


Figure 2: Previously known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the Study Area, Crop-mark interpretation by Historic Environment Record of Beds County Council

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- Key to Plans**
- Archaeological feature; unexcavated portion
 - Archaeological feature; excavated portion
 - Tree-throw; unexcavated portion
 - Tree-throw; excavated portion
 - Modern intrusion

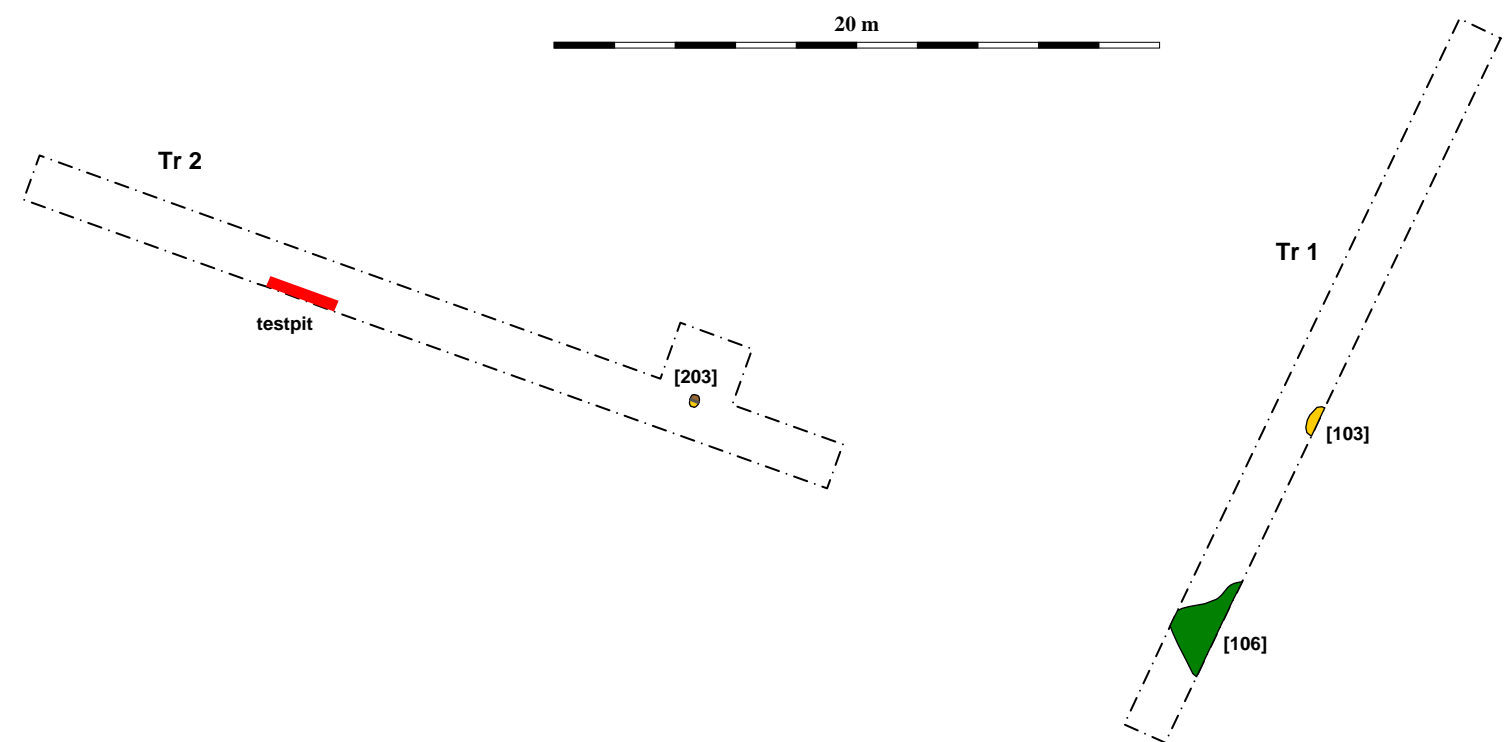


Figure 3: All features plan, Eastern Area; Trenches 1, 2 and 3

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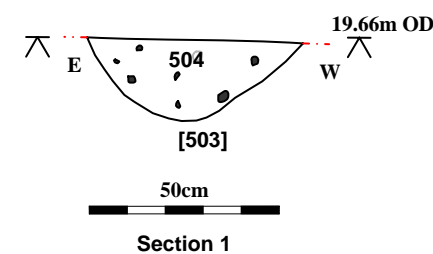
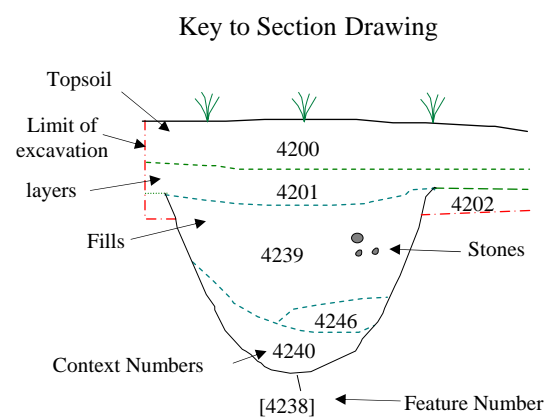
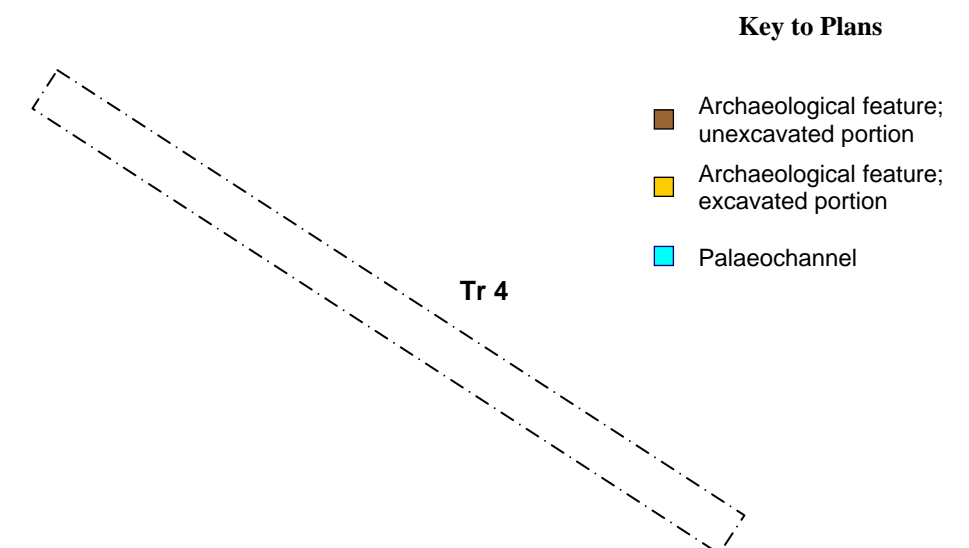
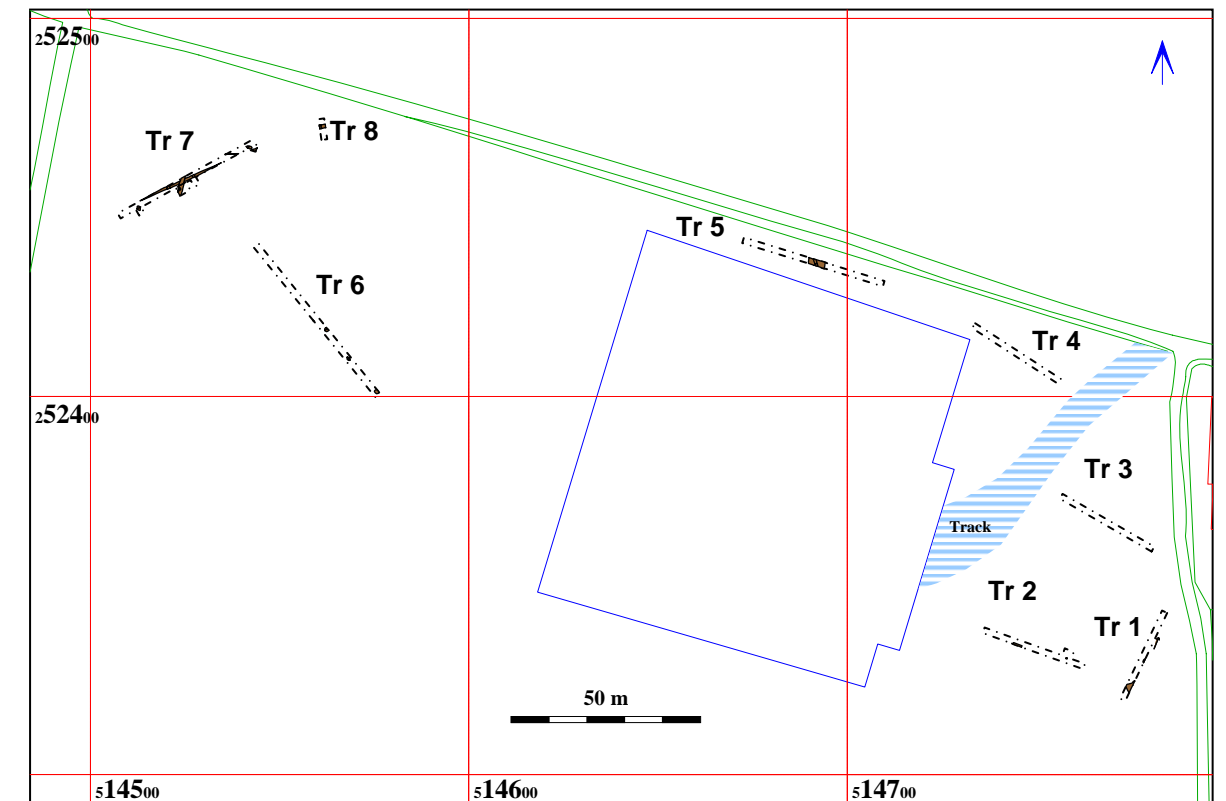
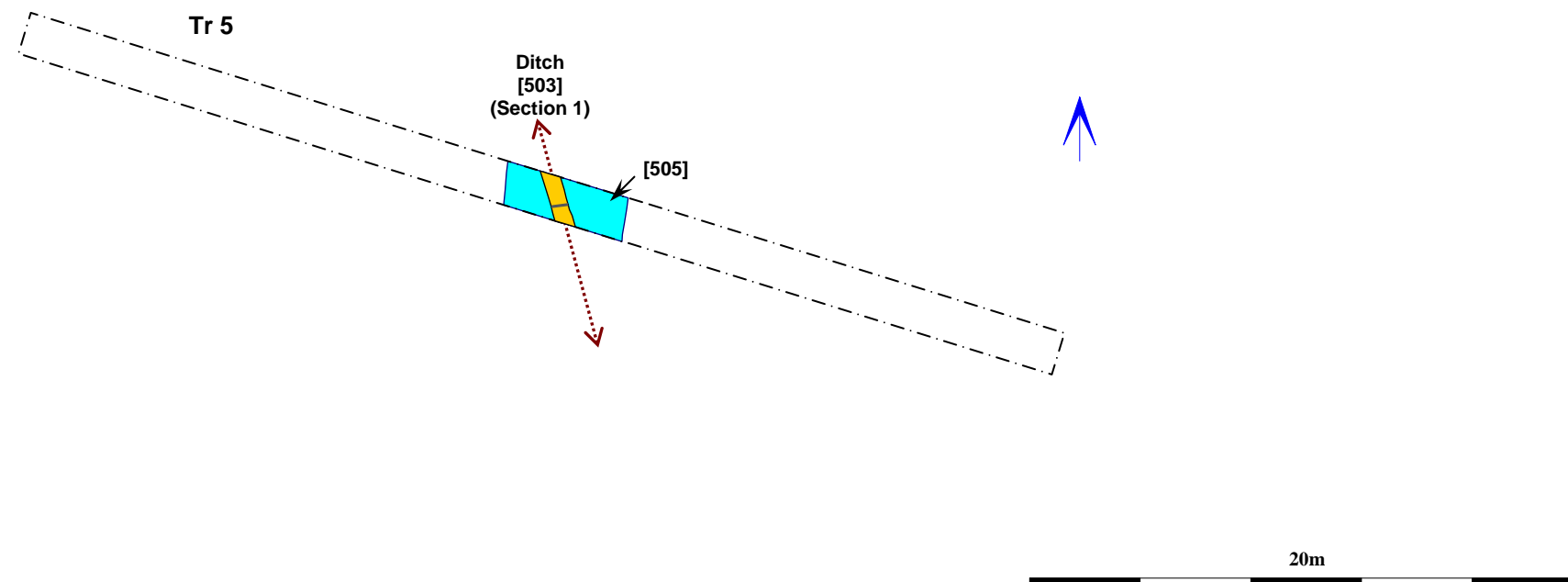


Figure 4: All features plan, Eastern Area; Trenches 4 and 5

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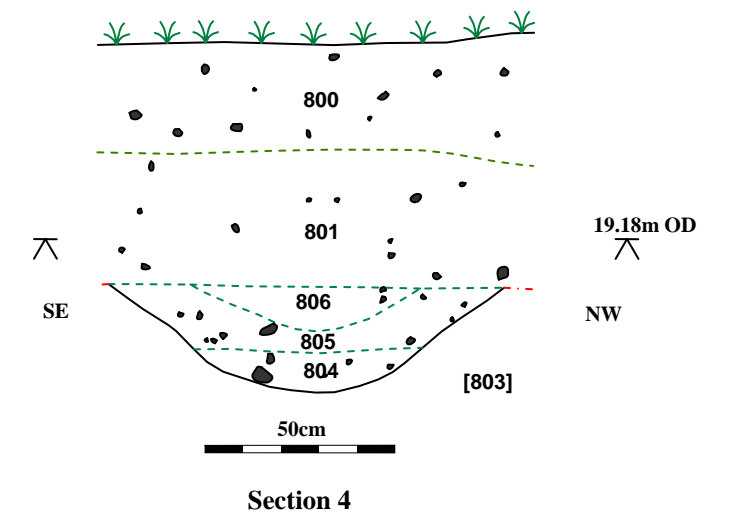
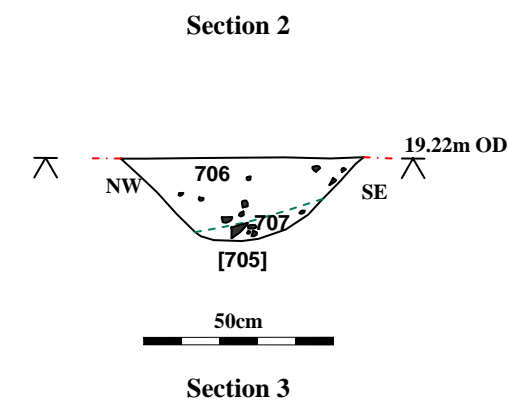
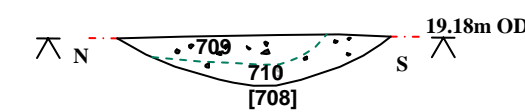
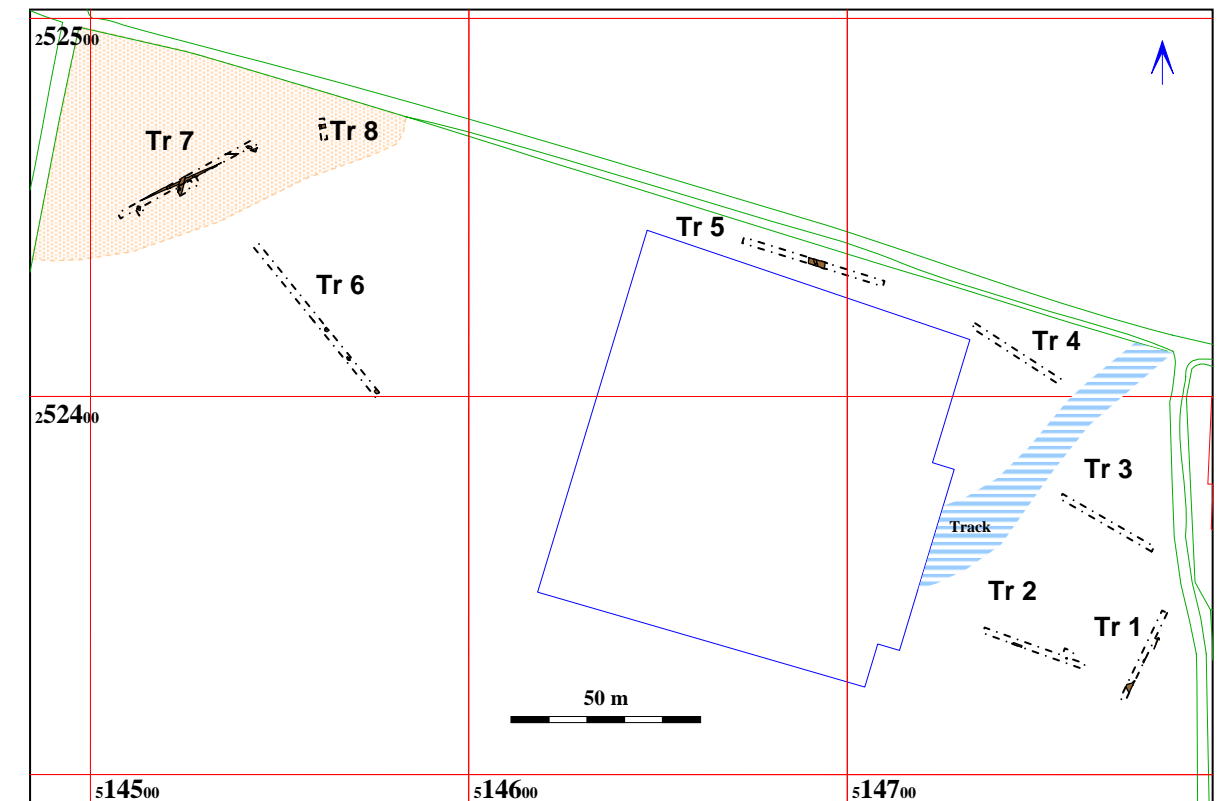
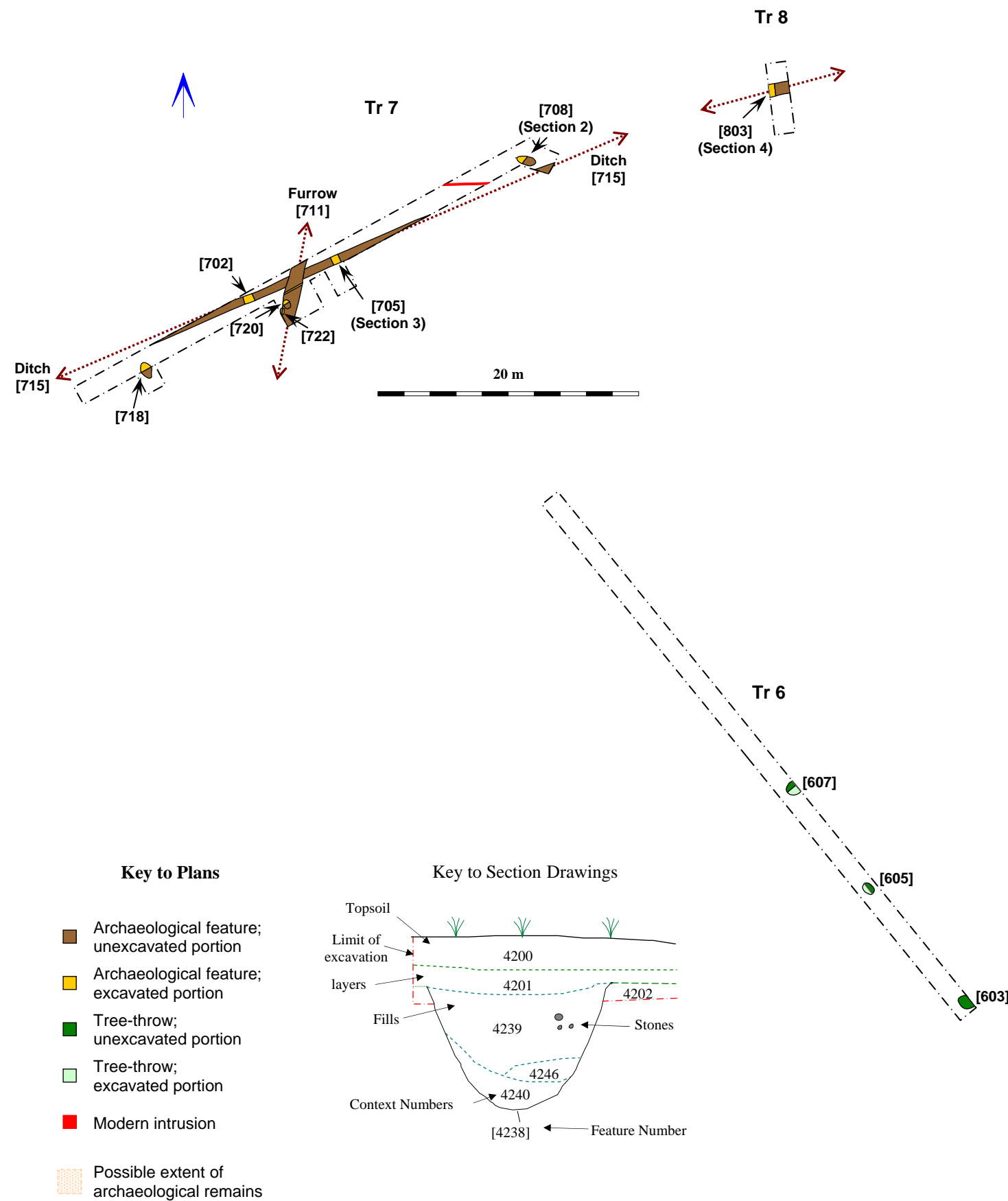


Figure 5: All features plan, Western Area; Trenches 6, 7 and 8

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Photograph 1: Posthole [203], Scale 0.2m



Photograph 2: Boundary ditch [503], Scale 0.2m

Figure 6: Selected photographs; Eastern Area



Photograph 3: Pit [708], Scale 0.2m



Photograph 4: Ditch [803] sealed by subsoil (801). Scale 1m

Figure 7: Selected photographs; Western Area



Section 1: Furrow [711]

Section 2: Ditch [503]

Section 3: Ditch [705]

Section 4: Ditch [803]